California GARDEN MARCH-APRIL 1978 Volume 69, Number 2 Fifty Cents

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- April 21 & 22: San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society, Spring Iris Show, Plaza Camino Real Shopping Center (Lower Level near fountain), Carlsbad, California. Friday 12 noon to 6:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.
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- April 22 & 23: Carlsbad Garden Club presents its Spring Show at Plaza Camino Real, Carlsbad; closing at 5:00 pm Sunday.
- April 28, 29, 30: San Diego County Orchid Society, Annual Spring Show, "Orchid Gems," Conference Building, Balboa Park; April 28 Preview-Reception 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm; April 29 10:00 am to 10:00 pm; April 30th, 10:00 am to 5:30 pm; Admission, \$1.00.
- April 29 & 30: San Diego Bonsai Club, Inc. Spring Exhibit, Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park; Open both days 10:00 am to 6:00 pm; FREE.
- April 29 & 30: La Jolla Garden Club, Standard Flower Show, "April in La Jolla", La Jolla Recreation Center, 615 Prospect La Jolla; Saturday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm; Sunday 11:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- April 29 & 30: Dos Valles Garden Club, Valley Center Flower Show, Community Hall; Open Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm; Sunday 12:00 to 5:00 pm.
- May 6 & 7: San Diego-Imperial Counties Iris Society, Spring Show, Majorca Room, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park; Saturday 1:00 pm to 5:30 pm; Sunday 11:00 am to 5:30 pm; FREE.
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COVER: The drawing on the cover of phalaenopsis orchids was done by Pat Maley, Vice-President of the San Miguel Branch, American Bagonia Society.

ANNOUNCEMENT: San Diego Floral Association is pleased to announce that Robert O. Brooks has been appointed Editor of the CALIFORNIA GARDEN beginning with the May-June 1978 issue, as successor to Craig Silgjord. Dr. Donald P. Watson, Professor Emeritus, University of Hawaii, Department of Horticulture, will be Consulting Editor.

The Association deeply appreciates the outstanding work by Craig Silgjord as Editor of CALIFORNIA GARDEN for the past four years.

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FLOWERING EUCALYPTUS

by Dr. Samuel Ayres, Jr.

Dr. Ayres Jr., a practicing physician, with his wife Helen, has been collecting and propagating flowering trees and shrubs for many years. He is active with the California Arboretum Foundation in Arcadia, California.

THE WORD "eucalyptus" usually calls to mind the earliest and largest species introduced into California in the 1880's, *E. globulas* or Tasmanian blue gum, for the purpose of making railroad ties because of its rapid growth and large size. Actually, because of its relatively soft wood, it did not live up to its expectations, and has since been used mostly for wind-breaks. Its flowers are small, white, and inconspicuous, and most people do not associate eucalyptus with showy flowering trees. The roots of this tree are greedy for water, making it difficult to grow other plants nearby, and its bark continuously peels.

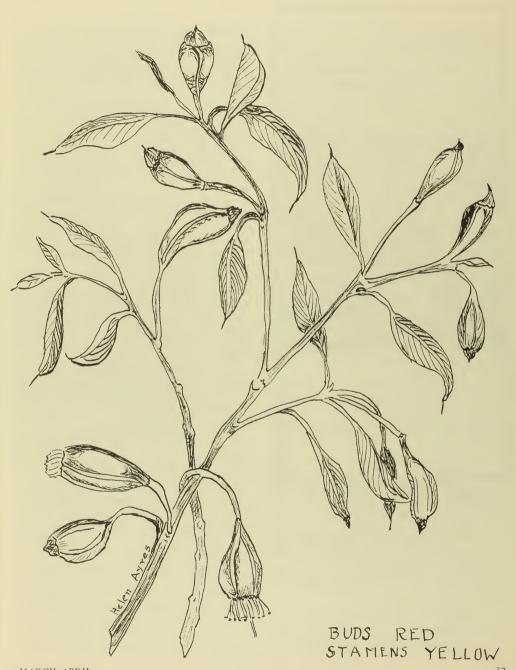
The genus eucalyptus, native to the Australian area, comprises over 600 species and a few hybrids, at least two of which originated in California. The species vary from trees to shrubs, or shrubby trees, and in size from 10 or 15 feet to giants of 300 feet or more. Their range includes tropical rain forests, mountains above the snow-line, deserts and semideserts with a Mediterranean-type climate, similar to that of southern California. Species from the latter area, some of which have only recently been introduced, are especially suited to Southern California with its comparable climate, and offer a wide variety of small to medium-sized shrubs and trees with conspicuous flowers in many colors, blooming at different times of the year, often for several months at a time, and sometimes several times a year. Flower colors include red, pink, yellow, green, orange, cream and mauve. The flowers occur singly or in clusters with individual flowers measuring up to two or more inches in diameter.

These species of small eucalyptus with showy flowers make ideal plants for the home garden, although they require good drainage, such as soil containing decomposed granite or sand, and should not be over-watered. They have a distinct advantage over annuals and perennials in that they require very little attention, are rarely bothered by pests, and each year become more prolific and beautiful. Judicious pruning can adapt their size and shape as desired.

One of the most important overlooked advantages of these small colorful eucalyptus species is their beauty and long-lasting quality as cut flowers for the home or office. If the cut ends of their stems are split two ways and placed in a deep vase of water, they will keep in perfect condition for seven to ten days. With proper selection of species, it is possible to have color in the garden as well as in the house every month of the year. The cut-flower industry has apparently overlooked an important item which should be profitable both to growers and sellers, even more than the already popular foliage of *E. pulverulenta* with its round silvery leaves, used as bouquet-fillers.

The genus eucalyptus is a member of the myrtaceae family and is related to bottle-brushes (callistemon and melaleuca) and other beautiful trees and shrubs. All species are evergreen and all of those under discussion will tolerate occasional temperatures down to 28 or 27 degrees. The flowers are characterized by an operculum or bud-cap, which pops off, revealing an expanding cluster of densely packed stamens in various colors. There are no petals, and the calvx or flower base may be inconspicuous, or in some species, highly ornamental, as in E. forrestiana and E. stoateii, medium-sized shrubby trees with long-blooming periods, where the bright red calyx resembles a Chinese lantern, contrasting with yellow stamens. The shrubby E. tetraptera has a larger four-sided red calyx and red stamens.

In other species, the operculum may be colorful, as in *E. erythrocorys*, where the scarlet bud-caps of unopened flowers contrast with three-inch golden yellow flowers in the same cluster. This tree grows to a height of 25 or 30 feet, with single or multiple



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trunks and can be shaped as desired. It blooms over a period of several months, two or three times a year.

E. ficifolia, the common red-flowering eucalyptus from southerwestern Australia, has become familiar to most Californians as one of the most spectacular flowering trees, suitable for landscape use in home gardens, parks, and public buildings, and as street trees. It often blooms several times a year, especially during spring and late summer, in shades of red which vary with individual trees, adding to their interest and charm. It is slightly more tender than some species, but two specimens at our home in La Canada Flintridge have tolerated a low temperature of 27 degrees on several rare occasions.

A closely related species, *E. calophylla rosea*, attains a similar size and shape, but in addition to its brilliant red flowers, it also adds an extra bonus in the form of bronze-pink new foliage.

- *E. sideroxylon rosea* is an old-timer, growing to a height of 40 to 50 feet, with a reddish non-shedding bark, and hanging clusters of small red flowers in the winter and early spring.
- *E. leucoxylon macrocarpa rosea* is somewhat smaller, with a white trunk, sometimes multiple and more conspicuous clusters of brilliant red flowers, blooming at intervals.
- *E. macrandra*, while not new, is rarely seen. It may be grown with single or multiple trunks, attains a height of 15 to 20 feet, and in summer is covered with large clusters of small, bright yellow flowers which are especially attractive and long-lasting as floral arrangements.

E. preissiana is a large shrub or small tree which blooms for two or three months in mid-winter with clusters of large yellow flowers. Where else in the United States can one enjoy the pleasure of a brilliant yellow-flowering tree on Christmas Day?

Green flowers are uncommon, but *E. mega-cornuta* ("big horn" referring to the horn-shaped buds)blooms for two or three months in the winter and spring, and appropriately rarely misses a performance of large green flowers on St. Patrick's Day, which would justify a nick-name of "St. Patrick's Eucalyptus."

E. caesia is a small tree with small pink flowers, and E. macrocarpa is a shrub with large roundish silvery leaves and very large red flowers, about three inches in diameter, also blooming in the spring;

a natural hybrid of these two species developed at the nursery of the late E. O. Orpet in west Santa Barbara, which has been designated *Eucalyptus x orpetii*. This hybrid naturally varies considerably in leaf form and structure and flower shape and color, but all are attractive, tend to be shrubby and are highly desirable for garden specimens and cut flowers.

Another hybrid which originated in California is *Eucalyptus x Helen Ayres*, a cross between *E. woodwardii*, a shrubby tree with small yellow flowers, and *E. rhodantha*, a shrub with round to oval leaves and large red flowers, similar to those of *E. macrocarpa*. Our own specimen, hybridized by Helen Ahyres, is a small shrubby tree with leaves intermediate between the two parents, and large sprays of red flowers resembling those of *E. rhodantha*. We have seen one other specimen of this cross, with large pink flowers, and other combinations may be anticipated.

We have also grown another natural hybrid, *E. torwood*, originating in Western Australia, as a cross between *E. woodwardii* and *E. torquata*, the latter being a shrubby tree with clusters of small coral-colored flowers, blooming over a long period. Hybrids of this cross have flowers which may be either yellow or orange.

- E. erythronema, a multi-trunked small tree, blooms at intervals with small, brilliant red flowers.
- *E. orbifolia* is a shrubby tree with round to oval silvery leaves, bearing attractive cream-colored flowers several times a year.
- *E. landsdowneana* is a 15 to 20 foot multitrunked tree with narrow leaves and clusters of small, mauve-colored flowers. It is not spectacular, but it is interesting because of its unusual color.
- *E. brewsterii* is a compact tree with small, round leaves and dense clusters of small, creamywhite flowers.
- E. kruseana is a somewhat dwarf, shrubby tree with small, round, silvery leaves which appear to almost encircle the stem, with clusters of tiny yellow flowers. We have nick-named it "baby shish-kebab."
- *E. pyriformis*, a small to medium-sized shrubby tree, blooms at intervals with groups of large red, pink or yellow flowers, varying with individual trees.

Seed pods of some of these flowering eucalyptus species and the red bud-caps of *E. erythrocorys* are attractive as dry arrangements and are in demand for making Christmas wreaths.

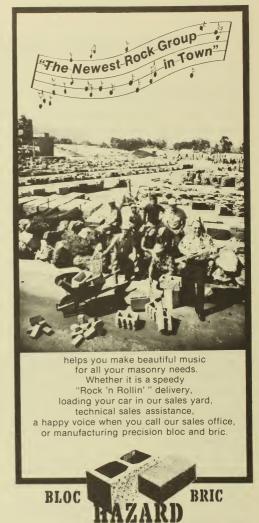
The trees discussed above, by no means exhaust the possibilities of colorful eucalyptus species suitable for landscape and cut-flower use in California and other areas with Mediterranean-type climates, and there are probably many desirable species yet to be introduced.

For a more detailed discussion of these colorful and useful plants, the reader is referred to a recently published book, **Color for the Landscape**, edited by Dr. Mildred Mathias, Professor of Botany, Emeritus, University of California at Los Angeles, and illustrated in full color by the late Ralph D. Cornell, FASLA.



THE HONESTY, Lumaria annua, is a native of central Europe. It has been called moonwort, silverbloom, satinpod and money plant. Its botanical name is derived from the Latin (Luna) moon because of the shape and semi-transparency of its large oval seed pods which glow with a silvery satin sheen.

In the Dark Ages it was considered an extremely important magic plant. Sorcerers and witches used it in many concoctions because it was believed to have the power to protect against evil spirits and put monsters and demons to flight. In addition, it was supposed to be able to open locked doors, break chains and unshoe horses that trod on it. There is no record of its use as a medicinal plant.



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THE PHALAENOPSIS WORLD

The author is president of the Orchid Society. His speciality is breeding phalaenopsis as a hobby and commercially.

by Charles R. Fouquette

I HAVE asked many questions about growing phalaenopsis and their relatives in the vanda alliance. One of the great men I have had the distinct pleasure of knowing is Hugo Freed.

Hugo was perhaps the first person to breed intergeneric, multicolored, and striped phalaenopsis. An example of the genealogy involved in an existing cross is a 12 generation phalaenopsis plant that has the 25 matings in the pod parent's background and the 77 breedings that preceded the pollen parent. That is typical of what Hugo showed me as a complex hybrid. Someone has to have a great deal of patience as the plant often takes four years to bloom out of the flask.

Hybridizers scour the world for species outstanding in color and form. Hugo and others like him have to find out what each plant holds in its own gene bank—which genes are recessive and which are dominant. Only through selective and controlled breeding can a person locate and record these things. I also asked him where these plants came from, and if it was hard to get them out of those countries. He said it was often difficult, and some collectors conceal the location of outstanding species. He also told me that everyone started with some of the following typical *Phalaenopsis*:

The *amabilis* species was discovered on the island of Amboina in Malaysia in 1750. *Amabilis* was first cultivated in 1846. Most phalaenopsis hybrids have *amabilis* in their background, particularly the fine whites. It has also been called *grandiflora*, *formosa*, and *rimestadiana*.

Aphrodite is the Philippine form of amabilis. It was the first phalaenopsis to be introduced alive and to flower in cultivation (after 1837).

Boxallii, from the Philippines, was introduced in 1882 and named after the famed collector, Boxall. This plant introduced the yellow color.

Cornu-cervi originated from Burma, Malaysia, Java, and Borneo. The flower is yellow and has two or three flowers on a stem in bloom at one time. The stem looks like an immature antler or staghorn,

after which the plant was named.

NOTE: When we mention yellow, this color is not a pure yellow, but might be just tinged or dark—but always with a stippling either in spots, very faint, or in bars, light to dark. These marks may or may not suit the breeder and may inhibit him from doing further breeding along the line he is pursuing. He may be able to use the hybrid after the development of a compatible breeding recipient, one that has the proper gene bank, through multiple crosses in a like direction.

Equestris, first described in 1843 and introduced to cultivation in 1848, grows in the Philippines. It has also been called *rosea*. There are four varieties of this species and they each have a slight color variation. This is where breeders first found the genes to give the white phalaenopsis the colored lip that has become so popular.

Fasciata, first described in 1882, is from the Philippines. It is yellow, and has been called *riechenbachiana*.

Fuscata, dating from 1874, is found in Malaysia, Borneo, and the Philippines. It has also been called kunstleri.

NOTE: I have found fuscata to be light to medium yellow, with light barred stippling across the petals and sepals. The lip is basically the same as the fasciata lip. Both of the above mentioned flowers are yellow. The fasciata is dark to medium and has dark brown or magenta transverse bars, not stippling, on the segments of the flower. Both plants may pass on different characteristics in breeding and the flowers do vary with their environment.

Gigantea, named for the size of the leaf, rather than the size of the flower, grows in Borneo. It was discovered in 1909.

NOTE: This flower is quite hard, of medium size, yellowish tan to mahogany brown,

and is an interesting parent. *Gigantea* lends to its progeny heavy flower substance, vigor of plant, and growth. It has been used to insure substance in the large cut flower plants.

Lindenii, from the Philippines, was found in 1895. It looks a little like equestris, except for the longitudinally striped sepals, petals, and lip. Here we have one of the plants that is a parent of some of the popular peppermint striped phalaenopsis that have become so popular and have won many awards for the outstanding breeders.

Lueddemanniana, from the Philippines, was first described in 1865. It has also been called hieroglyphica and pulchra. The latter two are indeed lueddemanniana, but they are varietal forms that come from different parts of the islands and different elevations. These are only two of possibly 10 to 20 varietal forms of lueddemanniana, of which there are a number of outstanding, awarded clones of the different cultivars. A great deal of breeding has been done with this species.

Mannii comes from Assam. This species, first used to produce yellow flowers, was described in 1871. It did indeed produce yellow flowers and the progeny was popular for years. As the criteria changed as to form of flower, it became less popular as a parent. The offspring of this parent was quite open and not fully round and overlapped as are the modern hybrids, so it fell slightly out of favor, but it is still an interesting plant.

Pallens is a native to Sumatra. Not much has been done in the line of breeding with this species. It is a very light yellow denticulated, with fine speckling. There are two forms of this plant and both are very recessive in breeding.

Pulcherrima is found in Vietnam. It was found in 1874 and has also been called buysonniana and esmeralda. This plant is not a true Phalaenopsis, but of the genus Doritis. Outstanding forms have been awarded and are being used as parents. Crossing the Doritis with Phalaenopsis gives us Doritaenopsis. Where we cross the large-flowering Phalaenopsis with Doritis we often increase the size of the stem and enhance the color of the flowers.

Schilleriana, native to the Philippines, came to light in 1860. This species is pink and the foliage is mottled. It has been used extensively in breeding pinks.

Stuartiana, first described in 1881, is from the Philippines. This plant is unique in its own fashion, and should be left alone except in sibling breeding to concentrate the finer forms and their characteristics. The flower is white with the bottom segments of the flower having a tan coloration with fine spotting. The flowers are from 1 to 2 inches in some of the finer and awarded forms.

Sumatrana is named for its native country although it is found in Borneo and Malaysia. First noted in 1860, it has been used to breed some novelty types.

Violacia, first described in 1859, is found in Sumatra, Borneo, and Malaysia. Those found in Borneo are the most popular for breeding. The Malaysian type does not have the brilliant coloration of the Bornean. The flower is closed, star-shaped, white, shading to light green on the tips of the sepals and petals, and the mid-lobe of the lip is orange to yellow in the center. The tip of the lip and column is rose to carmine, with the center of the flower and the center halves of the bottom two segments being rose to carmine also. This species has been used extensively in breeding striped and multi-colored novelty phalaenopsis.

We have not even broached the subject of the intensive breeding behind the modern hybrid phalaenopsis, but have touched lightly on some of my personal observations and facts that, in some circles, are common knowledge.

I want to thank Hugo Freed, John Miller, Herman Sweet, and Mell Miller for giving me so generously of their time throughout the years. If it had not been for these fine people, and others like them, it would not have been possible for me to assemble this information.

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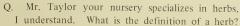
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Carlton Hills

SHADES OF LAVENDER

Interview with nurseryman Kent Taylor of Vista by Mrs. Harley Cope.



- A. Botanically, a herb is any plant that does not have a permanent stem and dies to the ground after each growing season. However, in the horticultural sense they are defined as a group of plants that are used as seasonings, garnishes, or scents, as in perfumes and sachets, or for medicinal purposes.
- Q. Lavender has always been popular with the public. Are there many varieties of this herb?
- A. There are at least 20, from the Atlantic Islands and Mediterranean region to Somalia and India, but we do not grow all of them, of course. We selected several that we found to be the most satisfactory, using hardiness, color, and abundance of bloom as our criteria.
- Q. What virtues do they have that would recommend them to the average gardener?
- A. They have several: they are easy to grow, they have attractive green or grayish green foliage, their flowers add color and beauty to the garden, and they have a pleasant aroma.





Q. I've heard they grow to be rather large plants. A. I don't think any more so than many of the other popular perennials. It is true that some varieties can develop into rather large clumps over a period of time, but they can be kept thinned out. They will flourish in pots, also, which keeps them well within bounds. Grow them in 1 to 2 gallon pots allowing them to dry out completely between waterings. The potted plants are particularly convenient since they can be placed to to advantage in the garden or patio when they are in bloom. Most of our plants average from 18 inches to 3 feet in height. English lavender, Lavandula angustifolia (also known as officinalis) grows only to two feet, has lavender flowers, and medium green foliage. One of the compact ones 'Nana' grows only I foot tall and has dark lavender flowers. Another one, 'Munstead', an early bloomer, grows to 18 inches and has lavender-blue flowers.

The French lavender, *L. dentata*, has grayish dentate foliage, and lavender flowers. It blooms all year. The Spanish lavender, a variety of *L. dentata* has green dentate foliage and lavender flowers.

The one we call Sweet Lavender, *L. heterophylla* is the tallest, often attaining 4 feet. We are most enthusiastic about this variety because, although it resembles the English, it bears many more flowers on each stalk and blooms the year around. Our Green Lavender, *L. viridis*, averages 3 feet, while the one we call Lavender Lace, *L. multifida*, a name inspired by its lacey light green foliage and dark lavender flowers, averages about 2 feet. *L. stoechas* in the 3 foot height range, has a large violet bloom.

- O. What about culture?
- A. That is very easy. They like plenty of sun and they make excellent drought resistant plants as they require very little water or fertilizer. The soil can be medium to poor—even rocky. They should be cut back after blooming. Nipping back the tips of young plants promotes fuller, more shapely growth.
- Q. We know the dried blooms of these plants are used in perfume and sachets, are there other uses?
- A. Yes, they are used in bath soap, potpourri, and as a delicious flavoring in candies, sauces, and desserts. An aromatic tea is made using the tender tips of the stems and the flower buds. The dried flowers are an excellent moth deterrent too! To prepare the dried flowers, either cut the stems or strip the blooms just as color shows and dry them in a cool dark place.
- Q. What about the culture of rosemary? Does it differ very much from that of lavender?
- A. No, both have approximately the same cultural needs. Rosemary should be pinched back gently, particularly as young plants, to keep them compact. Very little water and no fertilizer will encourage the gnarled, irregular stems that add so much interest to this plant, whether growing upright or flat to the ground.

We have had most success with varieties of Rosemarinus officinalis, the tallest of the group (up to 5 feet). This one has pale lavender-blue flowers. They all have slender needle-like leaves and coarse woody stems. 'Beneden Blue' grows to 4 feet. 'Majorica Pink' with pink flowers grows to 3 feet. The Santa Barbara rosemary we call 'Santa Barbara Lockwoodii' is a taller growing variety of 'Lockwood de Forest' which has bright blue-violet flowers. The one we named Trailing Rosemary, R. prostratus, grows quite flat to the ground. It is especially exciting trailing over the edge of raised beds, or making a curtain of green on walls. White Rosemary, 'Albus', grows to 3 feet and bears dainty white flowers, as the name implies. Wood Rosemary, 'Collingwood Ingram' has graceful curving branches with dark blue flowers, grows to 3 feet. 'Tuscan Blue' is another one that grows to 5 feet. They are all evergreen and are unusually versatile. In warmer climates the taller rosemarys are often used as hedges while the low growing varieties make splendid ground covers.



- Q. How are they used as herbs?
- A. The leaves are aromatic and, unlike lavender, it is the leaves, fresh or dried, that are used as a seasoning for beef, chicken, pork, lamb, and yeal dishes. They are delicious in sandwich spreads, herb butter, and stew. They are very attractive especially when in bloom, used as a garnish on a meat tray or on salads. An excellent tea can be brewed from them too. The old herbal recipes recommended this tea for headaches, gums, halitosis, and sore throat. Clippings brought in and allowed to dry or tossed onto an open fire will scent the whole house pleasantly. They have been used in shampoos and a rinse that is supposed to darken the hair. An aromatic oil distilled from the fresh flowering tips of R. officinalis is still used in perfumery and medicine.



- Q. It certainly appears that lavendar and rosemary are an exciting and versatile group of plants for our gardens, doesn't it?
- A. Yes, indeed, they not only add color and texture to the garden as ornamentals, but add spice and perfume to our lives.

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TO DO NOT TO END

by ALAN COOK

The person who compulsively and even frantically pursues a chore to its completion - is a garden worker, not necessarily a gardner. The former places the end above the doing. To a true gardner, culmination is akin to tragedy -- the chore itself is the triumph and the satisfaction. Thus a gardner can pause from planting, pruning, or building, leave the balance for another day, and feel no irritation or frustration by the work left to do. Rather, he is secure and warm in the anticipation of it.

Easter Greetings



DECIDUOUS FRUIT TREES

PART III

Mr. James, a native son, followed in the footsteps of his father as a nurseryman. He has taught horticulture in the Adult Education Program for the San Diego Unified School District for a number of years. Horticulture has been his profession and his avocation. He is a practical gardener who grows fruits and vegetables as well as flowers.

by George James

This concludes the series on Deciduous Fruit Trees that began in the Nov-Dec 1977 issue.

THE SELECTION of the most suitable varieties of fruit trees to be planted in the home orchard in the coastal area of Southern California has much to do with the success of the planting. Varieties may be selected for the fruit types, the time the fruit ripens, for it is possible to extend the bearing season by selecting those that ripen over a long period of time, or for nostalgic reasons—perhaps childhood experiences in other parts of the country. There are varieties of deciduous fruit bearing trees that are better adapted to our mild winter climate which will bear more consistently and live longer than those adapted to colder climates.

It has been mentioned previously in this article that there are two generally available references: Sunset Western Garden Book published by Lane Publishing Company, and All About Growing Fruits and Berries by Chevron Chemical Company. These have maps showing the areas of coastal influence and list those varieties best adapted to that climate. They also note those varieties that need a pollinator and tell which pollinator should be used in each case. Much other information that is helpful to the home orchardist and gardener is included.

The following section discusses the needs and peculiarities of several kinds of deciduous fruits commonly grown in the home orchard. To supplement these brief comments, the gardener should consult a reference to learn the total needs of the fruits he intends to grow.

Almond

These are not well suited to the coastal area because the air is too moist and the summer temperatures are not high enough to cause the development of satisfactory crops. All almonds need an almond tree of another variety close by for the purpose of pollination, and it is recommended that when selecting varieties the references mentioned should be

consulted to be sure that the varieties chosen will pollinate each other. When all other factors are to their liking, almonds will produce a crop on less water than any other deciduous tree, but need a well drained soil to do the best. The almond is one of the first trees to flower in the spring, and frost at the time of flowering will destroy the flowers and the crop. The nuts are borne on spurs, which are short shoots that produce fruit for several years, so the trees are pruned by cutting out some branches each year so new branches with new spurs can grow. When two or more almonds are planted it is recommended that a record be kept of the varieties planted and where they were planted in relation to one another so that in the event one tree dies it will be possible to replace it with the same kind.

Apples

There are many varieties of apples listed in catalogues but there are less than a dozen that are satisfactory in the coastal area and these are better for cooking than for eating. Apple trees produce their fruit on spurs, like the almonds, but apples grow spurs on new shoots without special pruning, so as a rule apple trees need only light to moderate pruning each year. Fruit is produced in clusters, which may have four or more fruits each. If clusters can be thinned to one or two fruit, the size of the fruit will be increased. There are both standard size and dwarf apple trees, the size of the dwarfs at maturity depending on the root stock on which the tree has been grown. Those that are the smallest are listed as dwarfs and those between these and the standard are listed as semi-dwarf.

Apricots

These are usually satisfactory in the home orchard, especially when varieties needing the least winter chilling are planted. Most varieties bear a satisfactory crop when planted alone, but some need a pollinator.

close to the ground and to remove suckers or water sprouts. Mature trees that are getting too tall can have their tops cut out, to keep the tree low enough so the fruit can be picked easily. All of the other fruit trees discussed in this article, unlike figs, are propagated by budding or grafting a scion of the desired variety onto a root stock variety. If a sprout grows from the root stock, it may bear poor quality fruit or none at all, for root stock varieties are choosen for vigor or other desirable characteristics, not for the kind of fruit they bear. For this reason sprouts that grow from the roots or the base of the trunk are always removed. This is not the case with figs, because they are grown from cuttings or slips, and sprouts from any part of the tree will produce identical fruit. There are only standard size fig varieties, but they can be dwarfed by confining the roots in a container or by severe pruning, and they can be trained as espaliers against a wall or fence. Figs develop many roots close to the surface of the soil so should not be cultivated deeply. Little fertilizer is needed since too much causes vegetative growth at the expense of fruit production. When established, fig trees need only a small amount of water, and excessive irrigation will lower the quality of the fruit and may cause it to split.

Peaches and Nectarines

These two fruits are closely related and have the same cultural needs so can be considered together. There are many varieties of each but only a few are recommended for growing in the coastal area. Both are available in standard size trees, dwarf trees, which are created by budding desired varieties onto a dwarf root stock, and genetic dwarfs, which are dwarf by nature and are even smaller. Standard trees need heavy pruning when they reach bearing size to make possible not only the production of Apricots are large, vigorous trees which bear fruit both on spurs and on twigs made the past season. They need to be heavily pruned to prevent over cropping and to permit fruit to be borne in the interior of the tree and on the lower portions. Trees that are not pruned become so dense that fruit is only borne on the outer ends of branches. Apricots and other kinds of fruit trees that develop water sprouts or suckers-strong shoots that grow from main branches and which are poor fruit bearing growth-can have these cut off at any time they can be identified. It is wise to fertilize apricots after the

crop has been picked to avoid danger of spoiling the quality of the fruit.

Cherries

These are not well suited to Southern California conditions as the winters are not cold enough to cause the required period of dormancy and there are no varieties that bear well without this. Sour or pie cherries need less chilling and are the most likely to be satisfactory. They do not need a pollinator. The sweet cherries, besides needing more winter cold, need a pollinator, for which a sour variety is usually satisfactory.

Figs

There are varieties of figs which do well when planted in the coastal area and can be one of the most satisfactory fruits for the home orchard, for they grow easily and bear well under most conditions. None of the varieties sold for home orchard use need a pollinator, and all have the potential of bearing two crops a season. The first crop is borne at the tips of the past season's growth and the second crop comes on new shoots that grow from these tips while the first crop is being produced. Pruning that takes off the tips eliminates the first crop, but produces a second crop of better quality. Figs are usually pruned to remove branches that grow too the current year's crop, but the ability to grow the shoots that will bear fruit the following year. Dwarf trees are pruned for the same reason, but will need less, and the genetic dwarf needs very little pruning. There are some varieties of both of these that are considered to be dual purpose trees, that is they flower with large double blooms in the spring, as attractive as any of the flowering varieties, and then bear a crop of good quality fruit in the summer or later. These trees need to be fertilized each year to grow vigorously to make the growth needed to bear the next crop. Peach leaf curl is a disease that causes the leaves to become distorted, discolored, and to drop prematurely, which weakens the tree. This disease is wide spread, but it can be controlled by spraying with a fungicide containing either copper or sulfur. One application should be made in December before the leaves have dropped, and another in January, following directions on the fungicide container. If rain occurs within a week after either applications of spray has been made, the trees should be sprayed again as soon as the weather clears.

Pears

Pears are not better adapted to a mild climate than are apples, but there are three or four varieties that do fairly well. Pears need only a light pruning each year, and like apples, are attacked by the codling moth. The adult moth lays its eggs in the fruit just after they are formed in the spring. The egg hatches into a very small worm which burrows into the fruit, growing larger and finally developing into a large worm that drops to the ground to spend the winter. Spraying with diazinon, according to directions, will control the worm if the first application is made as the petals drop. There are several varieties of pears that will not only bear well under the mild winter conditions, but do not require a pollinator. They are somewhat resistant to fireblight, a disease that can kill branches, or even an entire tree. Fireblight infection can only be controlled by cutting out the infected parts, cutting well ahead of where there is evidence of the disease and disinfecting tools after each cut.

Persim mons

These grow and bear well in the coastal area. There are varieties whose fruit must be fully ripe before it loses its mouth-puckering astringency. There are others whose fruit can be eaten while it is still firm without leaving any unpleasant aftertaste. The trees thrive in a wide range of soils and have an ornamental value in the fall when their leaves turn to yellows and oranges. Persimmons need consistent care because any fluctuation that causes irregular growth may cause green fruit to drop. Overirrigation, lack of irrigation, or excessive fertilization can be responsible, but as trees become mature they seem to be able to stand greater changes in their care without fruit drop. They need little pruning and a single tree will bear fruit without a pollinator.

Plums and Prunes

These trees belong to two botanical groups, the Japanese plums, and the European plums—to which prunes belong. The Japanese plums are better suited to mild winters. Many varieties need a pollinator if they are to bear a reasonable crop. Where room is limited, more than one plum tree can be planted in the same hole. Plum and prune trees come in standard sizes and dwarfs, created by budding standard varieties to a dwarfing root stock. European plums bear their fruit on spurs which produce for several years, while the Japanese plums bear their MARCH—APRIL.

fruit on both spurs and twigs which grew the year before. The European needs only light pruning to regulate the size, shape, and eliminate thin tangled shoots. The Japanese varieties need more pruning to prevent overcropping and damage to the trees. They may develop suckers or water sprouts, which can be cut out at any time or left as fruit wood for the following year.

Walnuts

Walnuts require a deep soil, such as the alluvial soil found in old river beds, and deep irrigation if they are to thrive. The English walnut grows to be a large and spreading tree, up to 60 feet in spread and 75 feet in height, while the black walnut has a smaller spread. There are only a few places where both suitable soil and room enough for these to grow are found. Some references consider 'Placentia,' 'Wasson,' and 'Payne' the best varieties for mild climates. Walnuts do not require a pollinator and they need little pruning. Mature trees only need to have crossing or interfering branches cut out.

The information given in this series of articles has been proven over the years to many people in many places. In gardening, as in other areas of endeavor, changes occur and new materials, new methods, and new plants become available which are sometimes described as a panacea for past ills. It is wise to consider such claims well, and to learn all that is possible about the new item and the person or organization sponsoring it. There are things beyond the control of the planter that regulate the growth and productivity of fruit trees. However, it is well worth the effort needed to research and select the varieties with the best chance of successful growth and vield under the conditions that exist where the tree is to be planted. It takes 3 years or more after planting a bare root deciduous fruit tree before there is a modest crop. A variety that is not well suited to the conditions cannot be identified until at least 3 years have been wasted, while at the end of that same 3 years a more suitable variety could be producing both fruit and satisfaction.

Author's note: The January 1978 issue of Sunset Magazine lists 20 new varieties of deciduous fruit for both cold and mild winter climate areas. Two of them contradict information given in this article and in the references suggested. These are an almond and a sweet cherry which will bear a crop without a pollinator. However, neither is suggested for planting in coastal areas.

ORCHIDS WITHOUT GREENHOUSES

by BEN HARDY

Mr. Hardy has been writing about and growing orchids as a hobby and commercially for 20 years. He is also president of the Exotic Plant Society.

THERE'S A popular belief that all orchids are strictly hothouse plants, a misconception that started back in the 1700's, when the English imported orchids from tropical climates and started growing them in "stove" glasshouses. Many orchids of tropical origin do require the heat and high humidity of a hothouse, but in a relatively mild climate, there are quite a few others that will thrive as house plants, patio plants, lathhouse or shade garden plants.

It is well known that cymbidiums have long been grown outdoors in this area. Cymbidium culture has been covered previously in California Garden (Mar-Apr 1972; May-June 1973; Mar-Apr 1975; May-June 1975; Nov-Dec 1975).

Other orchid genera that make striking and unusual patio or indoor plants are paphiopedilums and phalaenopsis. The ones that are amenable to cultivation are members of the large tribe originating in Asia or their man-made hybrids. The natural environment of this large group ranges from the chilly foothills of the Himalayas to the so-called hot, steamy jungles of Burma, Thailand, Malaysia, the islands of Indonesia, Papua (New Guinea), and the Solomons.

Paphiopedilums have a low light requirement (1200 to 1500 foot-candles) for successful growing and flowering as garden plants. The range of form and color in the flowers from the species to the hybrids is nothing short of fantastic. The dainty striping and delicate shading really make them outstanding in flower arrangements. The man-made hybrids are often difficult to believe when you see them. Some are larger than bread plates and so shiny and glossy they look artificial.

Phalaenopsis, the eye-catching "moth" orchid, has a medium light requirement (1500 to 2500 foot-candles). Its long arching sprays of longlasting flowers always make a colorful display in the indoor garden. They range in color from pure white, white with a colored lip (dark pink or red), pale yellow, white with pink candy stripes, white with pink spots, sunset or desert colors, solid pinks, and even

a tint of green in the newer introductions. A miniature species, *Phalaenopsis equestris* produces delightful pink flowers the size of your thumb nail, in contrast to some whites that measure up to 6 inches in diameter. These plants will usually stay in bloom for months at a time. On a mature plant never remove the flower spike as long as it remains green. Cut off the portion that has bloomed down to the second node below the point where the first flower was attached. The stem will then send out a new flower spike during the next blooming period.

Growing Techniques

Both incandescent and fluorescent lights seem to be satisfactory supplements for growing paphiopedilums and phalaenopsis. Perhaps the fluorescent setups are more convenient. However, to maintain close to the original intensity of light, the tubes may need to be replaced after 6 to 8 months of use. Lights should be located 6 inches and not more than 8 inches above the plants. Because of the variation in plant heights, many growers set the lamps at a height of from 2 to 21/2 feet. In this way they accommodate the larger plants nicely; the smaller ones can be raised on inverted flower pots or small platforms. Low-intensity light plants can remain at a lower elevation. To be effective the lights should be turned on no less than 14 hours a day if that is the only beneficial source of light for the plants. Raising the relative humidity to 50 or 60 percent is equally important for the health of these orchids. In the home this may be accomplished by placing a 2-inch deep plastic tray filled with medium (1/4 to ½ inch) pebbles under the light fixture. Set the potted plants on TOP of the pebbles, then add water to the tray until it almost reaches the top of the gravel. To raise the humidity further, as long as the plants are not in bloom, a clear piece of polyethylene may be draped over the entire unit. A daily misting is a great boost and an occasional syringing is beneficial. A monthly washing of the leaves to remove the dust is a must.

Temperature in the home should not be much of a problem. Whatever is comfortable for you will be suitable for the plants, but turn the thermostat



down at night. An important fact often overlooked is that plants must have a 10 to 15 degree drop in temperature at night for flower bud initiation.

Ventilation must also be considered. Plants just do not tolerate stagnant air. A small 3-inch fan that is used in cooling of electronic component cabinets is ideal; it provides a soft and gentle movement of air without causing dehydration of the plants. During warmer days an open window will provide the needed breath of fresh air.

The choice of a potting medium is important. Young phalaenopsis require a medium grade fir bark; mature plants require large grade fir bark. Purchase only the best grade of fir bark that is labeled for use with orchids. Some bark is impregnated with pitch, which is toxic to orchid plants. The paphiopedilums grow well in a mixture of small size bark, perlite or sponge rock, and clean sharp sand.

Many orchids are killed by overwatering. Growers are led to overwater because the surface of the medium looks dry before the area surrounding the roots is dry. A simple moisture gauge is a long plastic label with 2 or 3 inches buried beneath the surface of the potting medium. When you want to check for moistness just pull the label out and feel the tip of it. If it is moist, the plant does NOT need to be watered. If it is bone dry, you should have done your watering yesterday. Fresh water should be run through the pots, at least every other month, to leach out some of the salts that are certain to collect from most water.

Red spider mite, scale, and mealybug are the most serious pests. They can be controlled by spraying with malathion 50 (without petroleum derivatives) as recommended by the manufacturer. Slugs and snails may become a problem even when you are growing plants under lights if they were present in the medium or on the roots at the time of planting. For their control use any bait, following the directions on the container.

Feeding every two weeks with an all purpose liquid orchid fertilizer will maintain the plants in a healthy condition.

Many of you are familiar with those jewels of the forest popularly called lady slippers. These cypripediums, the native American cousin of the paphiopedilums will grow very much better in their natural habitat, than under cultivation. Please admire them only in the wilds and resist the temptation to dig them up to bring back to your own garden. But for a rewarding experience do try some of the paphiopedilums and phalaenopsis orchids as house plants, patio or garden plants. If you have further questions go to the orchid shows and talk with the exhibitors or better yet join an orchid society.

JACARANDA

Jacaranda acutifolia is probably the best known flowering tree in subtropical areas. Leafless from February or March, the large clusters of two inch flowers quite literally cover the irregularly shaped head in May-June. Sometimes the leaves are out, sometimes not by this time. Seed pods are nice in arrangements. It grows 25 to 40 feet high. It is hardy to about 20 degrees. Altogether it is lovely, but it can be messy during bloom season if over a patio or driveway. However, there is beauty in a carpet of lavender blossoms on a green lawn.



Elegant Ternstroemia

Reprint: Feb-Mar 1962

by ROLAND HOYT

ELEGANCE IS THE KEY WORD in describing *Ternstroemia gymnanthera (T. japonica)*. Restrained in growth, with graceful conformation, its richly colored, glossy foliage adds a touch of elegance both to the garden and to flower arrangements. It is a shrub of almost classic purity, direct in its appeal polished rhythmic in the set of its distinctive leafage.

This slow-growing evergreen reaches 5 to 8 feet in height with an equal width. Pinching and light pruning will thicken the bush, which then becomes heavy with a kind of stodginess, the foliage alone the only aspect of beauty. The gardener who will give it a little further attention with the pruning shears finds it complaisant and willing, adaptable to line studies, handsome against a cool wall. It is long-lived and dependable.

The dark green to bronze, two inch leaves, tinged with purple, becomes quite bronzy and shinny in full sun. The open form of the plant reveals curved reddish stalks and cream-colored, ¾ inch flowers, appearing in July and August. The flowers, inconspicuous but fragrant scarcely open but afford a kind of pattern in contrast to the dark back of leaves.



Planted in depth, *Ternstroemia* forms a descending screen which blends against a background of nandina and bamboo.

Ternstroemia is fairly adaptable, but performs best in an acid, loamy soil, with part shade in the hotter sections of the County. It has survived as much as 12 degrees at Kew Gardens in England. It is related to camellias and thrives with similar care, but will stand and deliver under surprisingly opposite conditions and laugh at the wet face of the Colorado. *Eurya ochnacea*, long known as Cleyera, is a closely related species that should be given a serious try in cool coastal regions of California.

Ternstroemia has been grown for many years in Southern California, but not freely. It is a sleeper; surely its high quality and substantial production will in time become recognized. That's a job for nurserymen.

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ROSES ROSES ROSES

by Dr. Robert G. Linck

The author, President of the San Diego Rose Society, is a professor of chemistry at the University of California, San Diego, and grows exhibition roses.

IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA there are two rose showing seasons a year: one in the spring—April and May, and one in the fall—October and early November. Why not go to a rose show this year? You will find fragrance, the beauty of the new and the old of the "queen of flowers." and you will see arrangements using the rose as the principal flower in many design forms. The intent of this article is to provide you with information about roses, especially exhibition of roses, to enhance your enjoyment of the specimen blooms in rose shows.

There are four major types of blooms in a rose show, hybrid teas, grandifloras, floribundas, and miniatures. Both hybrid teas and grandifloras are generally exhibited with only one bloom to a stem. Floribundas have smaller flowers, and are often shown as clusters of flowers, but may be shown with one bloom to a stem. Miniatures are exhibited both as one bloom to a stem and in clusters. This type is relatively new and features all the aspects of a rose, but on a much smaller scale than their classical parents. Miniature blooms range in size from less than one-fourth inch to the size of a quarter. In most rose shows, blooms of the same type are arranged together, classed by color of the bloom, although sometimes hybrid teas and grandifloras are mixed.

One often hears visitors to a rose show question why one rose was given a ribbon whereas another was not. The judging of roses follows a standard set of guidelines. One of these concerns the shape or form of the bloom or clusters of blooms. The bloom should be regular in outline, preferably circular, when viewed from the top. The center of the bloom, ideally, exhibits a high point, and each row of petals is symmetrically placed to enhance the overall pleasing sense of the outline. The side view should show the high center, with the outermost petals folded down to be parallel to the ground. Blooms that are open too far—showing the stamens, for instance—or those not open sufficiently to exhibit all of the

beauty of the rose, are not the best form for exhibition. Walk through a rose show and look at the best flowers, and you will soon see how the form of the bloom enhances the exhibit of a rose.

Two other qualities judged in exhibition roses are color and freshness, and stem and foliage. The judge is looking for blooms that have not aged, but are at the peak of their beauty. This is shown by the form and also by the vibrancy of the color, by the stiffness of the petals, by a general sparkle, a "spring day freshness," in both the color and vigor of the flower. This aspect is most easily seen in the white or yellow roses, but it is a factor in the judging of all colors. Lastly, the stem should be straight and sufficiently sturdy to hold the bloom firmly. The foliage should be clean and well spaced both around the stem and up and down. It should be a healthy green color without disease or insect damage. All of these qualities-form, color and freshness, stem and foliage-are among those that judges look for in awarding ribbons.

The exhibitors have provided the finest blooms that nature and their skills can produce. They began this project early in the year by pruning their bushes at the right time and in the right way. They watched their bushes carefully and sprayed to control insects and diseases such as aphids and mildew. They watered and fed their bushes. Nature played her role and brought forth the bloom.

Each exhibitor has a lot to do with obtaining the correct form. The rose must be cut at the right time and stored at low temperatures until the day of the show. He must time the entry of the bloom to achieve perfect form at the time of judging(remember this if you go to a show on its second day). He must clean the foliage, adjust stem lengths to pleasing proportions, and arrange multiple sets of blooms to enhance the overall beauty of the display.

Rose shows feature a vast number of well-known, and several lesser-known varieties. There are certain varieties usually shown, that are worth your attention. A hybrid tea 'Pascali', almost always has fine form; and that form is enhanced by good-sized foliage that accents the pure white of the bloom. 'Gene Boerner', a floribunda, is known for its form and its small pink blooms that have high centers and open gracefully. A display of these is especially delightful to see because it shows the beauty of a rose through all stages of its development. A miniature of excellent form is the dark red rose, 'Beauty Secret.'

Two floribunda varieties should also be mentioned, 'Orangeade' and 'Iceberg.' 'Orangeade' is a brillant orange-red flower of only five petals, which shows it's bright yellow stamens clearly. A cluster of these blooms makes an eye-catching display. 'Iceberg' is a white bloom of perhaps ten petals with shiny light green foliage. This variety produces big clusters showing several stages of growth.

But it is not form or foliage that strike most peoples' eyes when they enter a rose show. It is color! Roses exhibit all shades of colors except the blues and greens, but within the pinks, reds, whites, and yellows there are many hues. A number of hybrid teas are outstanding. 'Summer Sunshine' has a bright, bold, brilliant yellow color that captures the eye from across the room. 'Royal Highness' is a light pink bloom with subtle shadings of color. Not only do the solid colors attract attention, but so do the bi-colors and blends. 'First Prize' is predominantly pink with shadings to pale pink and yellow. 'Granada' shows all the colors of a sunset, with reds, vellows, and some near whites, blended together. The floribunda, 'Sea Pearl' is a majestic rose of blended pink colors.

The fragrance of roses is always a delight. Although there is usually a class in a show for the most fragrant rose, there is fragrance in virtually all roses. Among the hybrid teas you will find 'Lemon Spice,' and aptly named yellow rose. 'Bewitched' is a pink rose with good form and excellent fragrance. Many of the dark red roses such as 'Mister Lincoln,' have a heavy perfume. One of the most popular and fragrant new roses is 'Double Delight,' whose coloring varies with its position on the bush. The way the sun strikes it determines the color—the more sun the darker the red is on top of the basic creamy yellow-white base.

Be sure to look for these varieties at the next rose show you attend. Why not go to a rose show this spring? Better yet, why not plan to enter one? You will be surprised at the pleasure and knowledge gained in participating.

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MARCH-APRIL 53

GROWING FOR ARRANGING

by ADRIENNE GREEN





INTEREST IN gardening often leads to interest in arranging the material one grows. In selecting plants for the home garden an arranger looks for certain characteristics. The shrub, tree, vine, or plant of whatever type must enhance the garden setting as well as possess suitable characteristics for arranging. High on the list is "keeping quality." An arranger also looks for materials which complement each other. For example, in picture one the bamboo, flax, aspi-

distra, and aucuba are all related in color, primarily yellow-green. The small leaves of the bamboo offer pleasing contrast in form and texture to the straight slim spikes of the flax, the flat aspidistra, and the multiple leaves of the aucuba. All of these materials, with the exception of the bamboo, will last for several weeks in the house. The striped bamboo, 'Alphonse Karr', remains fresh three or four days. Even after the leaves dry to a light tan, they are

still attractive.

Bambusa multiplex 'Alphonse Karr', grows in a clump 10 to 15 feet tall with a stem diameter of onehalf to three-quarters inches. It will survive temperatures of 15 degrees. Young stem sheaths are striped pink and green; stems later are yellow with green stripes of varying widths. In clump bamboos the underground stems make little horizontal growth. The plant expands in diameter slowly, developing into a tight group. Bamboos may be grown in containers also. Although bamboos maybe planted at any season, the best time to divide a clump is in the spring when side stems are 6 to 12 inches tall and beginning to grow rapidly. Cut or saw out at least three stems with roots attached. For fast growth treat these giant grasses as a lawn, watering once a week and feeding once a month.

Phormiums, commonly known as New Zealand flax, are dramatic plants composed of many smooth vertical leaves which grow in a fan-like shape. Happy in almost any soil, these sturdy plants prosper in heat or cold, or salt air—even ocean spray! They enjoy an abundance of water or tolerate little and continue to thrive in sun or shade. For the home garden choose the dwarf variety of *Phormium tenax* with leaves up to 6 feet long. Colors usually available are: 'Atropurpureum' a purple-red, 'Bronze' a brownish red, 'Rubrum' a dark purple-red, and 'Variegatum' with green leaves striped creamy white. In the arrangement 'Bronze' and 'Variegatum' are used.

Aucuba japonice, Japanese aucuba, likes deep shade. Tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions this shrub performs best in a well-drained and well watered area. Gradually the plant develops into a rather buxom shrub with shining leaves, 3 to 8 inches long, 1½ to 3 inches wide, with toothed edges. In addition to the all-green there are many variegated leaved varieties. 'Crotonifolia' (male) leaves are heavily spotted with white and gold. 'Fructo-albo' (female) are variegated with white. 'Picturata' leaves are centered with gold yellow and edged with dark green,dotted yellow. 'Sulphur' has green leaves with broad yellow edges. 'Variegata' the one used in the arrangement, has dark green leaves spotted with yellow. It is commonly known as the gold dust plant.

Cut branches root easily in water and will continue to grow in an arrangement if a little plant food is added to the water. Later the rooted branch may

be planted in a pot or outdoors.

Aspidistra elatior, often referred to as the castiron plant, is an evergreen perennial which grows in the shade outdoors and may also be grown as a house plant. Because of its remarkable ability to withstand neglect this plant is a great favorite for the low maintenance garden. The leaf blades, 1 to 2½ feet in length and 3 to 4 inches wide, are tough and glossy, with distinct parallel veins. In porous soil enriched with organic matter aspidistra will thrive best. It also likes to be fed in spring and summer. Frequent hosing of the leaves keeps them glossy and clean. The aspidistra used in the arrangement is the variegated form 'Variegata,' which has leaves striped with white.

The fifth material used in the design is peeled, dried wisteria vine which adds rhythm and grace to the vertical arrangement.

Picture two features *Aloe arborescens* which bears striking spikes of red-orange flowers among clusters of gray-green spine-edged leaves. After the flower stems are in water an hour or so they develop rhythmic curving lines, making them particularily appealing to the arranger. The rough eucalyptus bark in the center of the design provides textural contrast to the fleshy leaves.

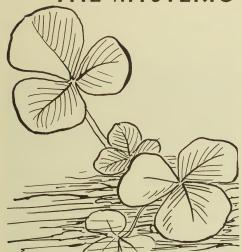
Succulents of the lily family, aloes are among Southern California's treasured ornamentals. Most of them originated in South Africa, which has similar climatic conditions. Many aloes bloom intermitently all year with the biggest show usually from late autumn into early spring. They stand drought, sun, or salt spray and will tolerate shade. Some plants have survived temperatures as low as 17 degrees. In areas too chilly for outdoor culture aloes may be grown in pots and sheltered from frost. For the carefree garden, aloes are an important choice.

Almost any growing material may be used in artistic designs. The ones selected for the two arrangements are among those easiest to grow and easiest to arrange.

DID YOU KNOW?

The saying "a bed of roses" to signify that one is wealthy and well-cared-for comes from the fact that in early Roman convivialities (orgies) the mattresses for sleeping were filled with rose petals.

THE MYSTERIOUS SHAMROCKS



THE SHAMROCK is a plant shrouded in mystery, controversy, and symbolism. Seldom is it heard from except on the Irish holiday of March 17th, St.Patrick's Day, when the three-leafed symbol is made up in plastic and worn by the celebrants of that day. Irish legend has it that St. Patrick, in the fifth century, used the three-leafed plant to illustrate the Trinity. As time went on this plant was adapted as a religious symbol in honor of the saint, and in modern times as a nationalistic emblem. It has endured for fifteen hundred years and is still going strong.

Whether this three-leafed plant is a clover or wood sorrel, we do not know. Both grew in shady woods or sunny meadows in Ireland. Although the clovers and wood sorrels both usually have three leaflets, there is an occasional four-leafed one. Because of its rarity a belief grew that a four-leafed one would bring good luck to anyone who found it. This sent people out to the meadows in droves, and children of today still hunt the four-leafed clover.

As far as I can find out, botanically speaking there is no such plant as the shamrock. It could have been one of the medicks, clover-like plants related to common alfalfa, or it might have been one of the many clovers. Two that are sold today as shamrock are hop clover, *Irifolium procumbens* or *T. dubium* and white clover, *I. repens*. These once grew wild in

by ROSALIE GARCIA

Ireland and have been found amenable to pot culture. Or it could have been wood sorrel, Oxalis acetosella.

These are all grown as pot plants and sold by florists. They are coming into favor because they grow quickly and come into maturity in a month or so in four-inch pots, or even two-inch, making them good desk plants, hospital gifts, or bedroom and small table ornaments. The foliage is dainty, and the oxalis has small cup-like blossoms of pink, red, lavender, white, or yellow. These are not showy plants, but lend themselves to intimate situations where they can be enjoyed close-up. One can buy the oxalis bulbs and grow many plants for gifts or multiple decorations around the house

The genus Oxalis is a large one of about 500 species. In Southern California we are familiar with a weed-like species having yellow flowers that becomes a garden pest during the wet winter season. It is so crisp and pretty I hate to dig it up, but it will take over a garden, for it loves wet rich soil. I once had a guest who admired it as a ground cover, until I discouraged her from using it by explaining its invasive habit. It does die out as soon as the weather warms up. It propagates as do all wood sorrels through both seed and tiny bulbs, which are hardy and persistent. Some of you may remember how as children, you delighted in nibbling "sour grass," another wild oxalis that grows in the woods. Its tingly acidity is in its slender stems which bear dainty pink or pink and white striped flowers.

In that excellent encyclopedia of imported plants, Exotica, compiled by a San Diego County resident, Mr. Albert B. Graf, there are pictures of 29 varieties of wood sorrel and a number of clovers grown as house plants. Bailey's Hortus Third describes them in detail. A survey of local florists does not reveal a wide demand for "shamrocks," but a few are sold around St. Patrick's Day. In areas where there are concentrations of people of Irish heritage I am told that it is a custom to send the "shamrock" plants to friends and relatives at that season.

One national organization that has adopted the

"shamrock" as its trademark is the Kelly Girls, an agency furnishing temporary employees. The organizer, Mr. Kelly, hit upon the idea of capitalizing on his Irish name and using his heritage as a public relations symbol by distributing as many as 90,000 "shamrock" bulbs each year to his customers and employees. Kelly Girl employees are encouraged to plant the bulbs in four-inch pots and keep them in their offices. Competition is encouraged by having a show of their plants. Last July the local group invited a panel of flower show judges to do the judging according to the horticultural standards of the National Council of Garden Clubs. The adaptability of these plants was illustrated by the first prize going to an oxalis that had been grown on the desk of a Kelly Girl's customer under fluorescent lights. Growers are encouraged to consider their plants as pets, and to treat them so.

Mary Scavese, the local Kelly Girl district manager, says they are not always issued the same varieties of bulbs, but she knows they have grown Trifolium dubium, which is often called the Irish shamrock, but is botanically a clover, and Oxalis braziliensis. The trifolium has smaller, paler green leaves, and grows in a crisp, upright manner, fuller, and more turgid. The oxalis has longer stems and larger leaflets, giving it a more exotic appearance, especially as many varieties close their leaves at night. In some varieties the stems and undersurface of the leaflets are red. Like many bulbs, with the stimulation of light, fertilizer, and warmth, they will last more than a year as house plants, then lie down and rest for several months before coming up again. Hybridizers are working on new varieites, and we can look forward to better and possibly larger plants.

Among those listed in **Exotica**, my first choices

- O. deppei although I have never seen this in bloom it has graceful reddish stems and red undersurfaces of leaves which close at night.
- O. incarnata lilac flowers and full, bushy growth,
- O. bowiei stout petioles and pink to rosepurple flowers.

All of these come from South Africa, from a climate similar to ours, and could be grown out doors but are adaptable to pot culture. One bulb to a four-inch pot will produce a satisfactory plant. For a more luxuriant showing, several bulbs in a larger pot will

produce a tiny garden. Whether the "shamrock" is a clover or a wood sorrel may never be known, but either makes a nice little house plant, and one does not have to be Irish to appreciate it.



The Houseleek, *Sempervivum tectorum*, is a rockplant native to Europe. The Old Dutch name was Donderbloem or Thunder Flower.

It was commonly believed during the Dark Ages that it protected against lightning, fire, witches, and evil spirits. Charlemagne, King of the Franks, first Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire (768-814 A.D.) decreed that every landlord had to plant at least one houseleek on the roof of each dwelling to protect the whole community from fire and to ward off war, hunger, and pestilence.

Later it became a popular remedy for corns, sores, ulcers and burns. The juice was once used for fevers. It was often recommended for diarrhea, convulsive diseases, chorea (St. Vitus Dance), and epilepsy, Tournefort claimed that it was the best remedy for broken-down horses. He prescribed the horse be forced to swallow five hundred grams of houseleek juice to rejuvenate him. It was highly popular as an external ointment too. Mixed with chalk it was advocated for numerous skin irritations and burns. On cottonwool it was believed to cure deafness. The plant is no longer used in either human or animal medicine.

It was considered the symbol of vivacity because it remained fresh and firm in appearance even when grown on hot roof tops. ...S.C.

now is the time

Compiled by PENNY BUNKER

BEGONIAS

Margaret Lee

- to prune for shaping plants, and encourage more side growth; prune gradually, not more than 1/3 of the plant at a time to avoid shock.
- y to clean up—clear all dried leaves, trim spent blooms and
 dead wood.
- √ to start new cuttings, leaves or seed.
- √ to mulch with a top dressing to make sure roots are covered.
- √ to repot if heavy and compact.
- to feed 1/4 strength of a good all-purpose plant food if feeding once a week; 1/2 strength if feeding twice a month or full strength if once a month.
- √ to watch watering program especially if no rain. Keep plants moist but not WET.
- √ to spray for insects or disease control.

BONSAL

Dr. Herbert Markowitz

- to check excess blooms on deciduous and fruit-bearing trees; remove extra and leave just enough for an interesting view.
- √ to graft deciduous trees.
- √ to repot plants; shape to conform to container or design.
- √ to watch watering program if no rains.
- to correct alkaline soil by addition of small amounts of chelated iron or acidifying material.
- to protect trees putting on new growth-not too much sun to avoid scorching new leaves.
- √ to wait until April before fertilizing.

CACTUS & SUCCULENTS

Verna Pasek

- to repot plants that are overgrown or root-bound; add new soil to those that need a bit of rejuvenation.
- √ to propagate new plants by taking divisions and cuttings.
- to watch for pests such as mealy bugs under leaves; use equal parts of alcohol and water dabbed on with cotton swabs.
- √ to check blooms for aphids; may use malathion.
- √ to start watering and fertilizing as new growth appears.
- √ to fertilize with 10-10-10 to promote flowering.

CAMELLIAS

Benjamin Berry

- √ to transplant those bushes not done last month.
- to plant new plants while they are still in bloom.
- to protect your late bloomers from the hot sun as much as possible.
- ✓ to maintain a regular watering if no rains.
- to fertilize with 1/3 strength only if needed now. Do not feed newly transplanted bushes.
- √ to dust under and around plants to discourage leaf beetle.
- \checkmark to feed iron every other month to promote healthy deep green.
- √ to prune and shape plants—open plants to air.
- √ to still make grafts.

DAHLIAS

Abe Janzen

- to prepare planting area—broadcast 2½ lbs. of super-phosphate and sulphate of potash for each 100 square feet of ground. Fork in and level ground.
- to remove tubers from storage and place in vermiculite or sand; place in a warm location to sprout. Beware of too much moisture.
- to plant after two or three weeks—dig hole six inches deep.
 Place stake at planting location, and place tuber on its side—sprouts up—6" below ground surface, 2" from stake, then cover with 2" of soil.
- to maintain soil moist, but not wet—do NOT allow soil to become soggy wet. As plant grows, draw soil around plant and protect from snails.

EPIPHYLLUMS

Mary & Warren Kelly

- √ to keep plants in filtered sunlight to develop buds.
- √ to let any rain leech out salts from pots.
- to pinch off buds of young plants (new starts) so that energy can go into plant and make a good strong one.
- to check for pests—aphids, mealybugs, scale. Malathion is a good spray to use as needed.
- √ to put out bait for snails. Keep from contacting plant.
- √ to clean off dried branches and add new mulch if needed.
- to feed plants with low nitrogen fertilizer as buds are forming.

FERNS

Ray Sodomka

- y to water and keep surrounding areas damp to maintain humidity if there are no rains. Catch rain water and give to plants in a covered area.
- √ to fertilize with high nitrogen liquid or pellets.
- √ to divide, repot or add leaf mold to those as needed.
- √ to spray for aphids and scale.
- √ to remove old dead fronds.
- √ to plant spore.

FUCHSIAS

William Selby

- to clean up fallen leaves, blossoms, and other trash around your plants. Don't dispose of "frost-bit" plants—those dead looking plants may recover with care and send out new growth. Don't prune until new growth is apparent, then prune to the new growth.
- √ to still prune and shape your plants.
- √ to still take cuttings.
- to pot cuttings taken earlier, but do not fertilize them for at least two weeks, give the roots a chance to settle.
- to start pinching established plants that are growing well. Heavy pinching leads to large heavy plants. Pinch until six weeks before blossoms are desired.
- to feed hi-nitrogen fertilizer with a little acid to encourage growth. A light (half-strength) feeding every 7-10 days is better than one big feeding every month.
- to watch for whitefly, inch worms, aphids, and tomato horn-worms. Use malathion as a control, every fourth day to get the eggs as they hatch, until all signs of the pests are gone.

GERANIUMS

Phil Bush

- √ to start feeding lightly but very regularly.
- / to cut back zonals.
- √ to water sparingly.
- √ to pinch plants to force outside leaves.
- to spray for whitefly and aphids—use malathion or Cygon 2-E.
- to check potted plants for repotting needs—move to next size larger pot.
- √ to clean plants of dead leaves and blossoms, trim up.

IRIS

- √ to clean beds and keep weeds under control.
- √ to water regularly if no rains.
- to start feeding with low-nitrogen, all purpose or liquid fish
 fertilizer.

- √ to spray for aphids and thrips—a systemic spray gives good
- √ control.
- to give Japanese and Louisiana types acid food in the water; can use camellia type fertilizer.

ORCHIDS

Charlie Fouguette

- -Cattleyas-
- to repot any that are showing new eyes (can place divisions in plastic bags so they will initiate roots and eyes for planting later).
 - -Cymbidiums-
- √ to move to shade as the weather clears.
- √ to protect from showers that may harm spikes.
- to clean debris from and around pots, plants, and under benches.
- √ to continue low nitrogen fertilizer.
- to check for slugs and snails particularly after showers and rains.
 - -Paphiopedilum (cypripedium)-
- √ to repot outdoor after blomming.
 - -Phalaenopsis-
- to protect plants that are in spike from drafts and temperature changes so you will not blast the buds.
- to shade areas that are becoming too warm, inside and outside hot houses.

ROSES

Dee Thorson

- to fertilize with liquid rose food when new growth is about 2" long.
- y to apply an organic fertilizer (approximately ½ cup per bush) if no application was given at pruning time to established plants.
- √ to maintain an adequate water supply if no rains appear.
- √ to thumb prune (rub off) unwanted bud-eyes.
- / to begin a preventative spraying against mildew.
- √ to disbud hybrid tea roses while sidebuds are still immature.
- to eliminate aphids, using a systemic insecticide as a soil drench, (to eliminate burning new foliage) or hose them off with a strong stream of water.
- to check foliage for unhatched eggs of worms or rose slugs. Spray with malathion if worm damage is present.

VEGETABLES

George James

- y to set plants of broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, celery, chard, kale, lettuce, onions, and collards which are usually available at nurseries at this time.
- to start in pots in a protected place so they will be ready

to transplant to the garden when danger of frost has past, seeds of beans, corn, cucumber, eggplant, pepper, summer squash, and tomato.

- to set plants previously started or obtained from nurseries, of cucumber, eggplant, pepper, tomato, and summer squash, and to protect from frost and rain with a translucent covering.
- ✓ to set bulbs of onions and cloves of garlic.

FLOWER SHOW VIEWING

A GUIDE by Sharon Siegan

GREEN THUMB ITEMS

- √ to finish in March to plant bare-root trees and shrubs.
- to get ground cover planted before warmer weather or May fogs begin.
- to plant perennials—carnations, gerberas, marguerites, Shasta daisies.
- to plant some bulbs—caladiums, cannas, gladiolus, tuberous begonias.
- √ to prune spring-blooming trees and shrubs after blooming.
- ✓ to shorten the pine "candles" for denser growth.
- y to feed anything that was not done in February—do it in
 March.
- to divide chrysanthemums that need it. Select the new growth from outside the old clump.
- to feed all lawns in April. Last chance to plant cool-weather grasses before warm weather.





'TIS THE season for flower show viewing. From early February, when camellias are at their prime, through mid-July, when hemerocallis burst into vibrant color, there is an almost weekly parade of flower shows. Between the plant societies, the garden clubs and other groups, there may be as many as three or four exhibitions on any one weekend, vying for the attention of the avid flower show goer.

California Garden lists all area shows on the inside front cover, and after checking off the most inviting, you need only a pair of comfortable walking shoes and the best vision you can muster to enjoy the latest and most exciting entries in the floral kingdom.

So what's to learn about flower show viewing? Not much, unless the words "a standard flower show" appear on the schedule or notice of the event, and you are interested in understanding the system of judging upon which the awards are based. Those words signify that the show has been planned and staged by member clubs of National Council of State Garden Clubs, and meet their requirements. This guarantees at least 20 arrangements and an equal number of plant (cut specimen and potted) entries, all evaluated by accredited judges, with awards determined by the standard system. The emphasis is on fresh plant material since artificial is prohibited entirely (artificial grapes are allowed—real ones attract flies).

What does this all mean to you as a viewer? First, you may assume that all entries will be judged. Somebody must be responsible for passing out those colored ribbons! But it won't be the chairman of the show, or friends, or relatives—unless that person just happens to be accredited. Since judging is done by three-member panels (to avoid a tied vote) two judges in each group must be selected from among the ranks of National Council accredited judges. The third

member may be a student judge or on occasion a plant specialist. If the show is "standard," it is quite likely that the awards have been agreed upon by judges who have been honing their skills for many, many years. Even though 100 percent agreement among judges is not a requisite, those colored ribbons decking the entries represent thoughtful consideration by highly qualified people—and usually it is unanimous opinion.

Clearly then, the awards are not arbitrary. Do those blue, red, yellow, and honorable mentions mean the same? It is true they always indicate a ranking in perfection within a class, however, there must be a range in the degree of perfection for each. It is this latter condition which can create a problem. Thus, it may well be that a blue ribbon winner in one class is less "perfect" than a red, yellow, or even an honorable mention in another class. The listing below will clarify the rating system.

Assuming 100 points equals perfection (and traditionally is never attained), the ribbons in a standard show are awarded on the following basis:

BLUE-denotes first place; presented to best entry in each class scoring a minimum of 90 points.

RED-denotes second place, scoring a minimum of 85 points.

YELLOW-denotes a third, scoring a minimum of 80 points.

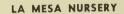
HONORABLE MENTION—these white ribbons are discretionary; awarded to one or more entries within a class regarded as meritorious. There is no point minimum.

From the above, it is obvious that one class may contain four entries all scoring above 90 (that is, within the blue ribbon range). Yet, only the top scorer will be given the blue, and the lowest, still over 90 points, will receive an honorable mention. In contrast, the top scorer in another class may be 90, with all others substantially lower, yet still merit all of the awards. This also explains an occasional missing award within a class. For instance a red may not be given because the second best entry scored below 85 points. The scale of points by which all judging is done appears in the flower show schedule.

For the record, most judging is done by "eyeballing." It is only in the case of two entries which appear equally excellent that the score is actually calculated to determine ranking and to eliminate ties.

This then, is a very brief guide to flower show viewing. Although it is intended primarily for standard shows, it will be helpful for any judged show. Plant society shows which normally judge their own horticulture section, traditionally select National Council accredited judges to make the awards in their arrangement division.

Just remember, the first thing to do when entering any show is—obtain a schedule. Read it thoroughly, and then let your eyes take over. The real pleasure remains in the viewing!



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THE BOOK SHELF

EDIBLE NUTS OF THE WORLD by Edwin A. Menninger, Horticultural Books, Inc., P.O. Box 107, Stuart, Florida 33494, 175 pages; \$14.95.

In reading this big, handsome book one's awe is aroused at the hundreds of nuts from all over the world, especially in the tropics. Dr. Menninger, a Florida horticulturist who has spent his life studying and introducing tropical plants into the United States, has done a comprehensive study of nuts. He defines nuts broadly as "any hard shelled fruit or seed of which the kernel is eaten by mankind." There is even a chapter listing plants called nuts, whose hard seeds are not eaten. This is a valuable reference book on nuts and their use and value as food.

GROWING BERRIES AND GRAPES AT HOME, by J. Harold Clark, Dover Publications, 180 Varick Street, New York, N.Y., 10014, 372 pages; \$4.00.

This book is thorough in its attention to berry culture: planting, soil, fertilizing, and pest control. There are tables of varieties that produce well in different parts of the United States. The section on grapes is excellent. He lists varieties that grow well and tells how to grow them in our own gardens. There is also a section on processing both berries and grapes, and how to serve them to best advantage.

EARLY FLORAL ENGRAVINGS, edited by E. F. Bleiler, Dover Publications, 224 pages; \$6.00.

This is a book that both artists and horticulturists will appreciate. The black and white prints have been reproduced from copper plates printed in Frankfort am Main in 1612 by Anthonius and Erasmus Kempffer as a kind of floral catalog called the Florelegium. It was compiled by Emanuel Sweertz, who had a commercial museum in Amsterdam and Frankfort. The Florelegium was inspired by the Emperor Rudolph who was fond of flowers.

MUSHROOMS, Edible and Otherwise, by Miron Elisha Hard, Dover Publications, 623 pages; \$7.95.

This book was first published in 1908, but has been updated with name changes and a new appendix by Dr. Martins Gilliam, a professor of biology. There are hundreds of wild mushrooms which are edible and he names them as he describes them and tells where they grow. The book is meant to be for beginners with an interest in mycology, the study of mushrooms. Maybe a Mushroom Society could develop in a group that wants to combine the out-of-doors with gathering wild mushrooms.

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4444 Arista Drive, S.D. 92103

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY

First Thursday, United Church of Christ, 5940 Kelton, La Mesa Prs: Mrs. Vincent Lang-469-2323 9160 Lemon Avenue, La Mesa 92041

SAN DIEGO CACTUS & SUCCULENT SOCIETY Second Saturday, Casa del Prado, 1:30 p.m. Prs: Mr. H. Warren Buckner—469-1391 1744 Englewood Dr. Lemon Grove 92045

1744 Englewood Dr. Lemon Grove 92045 SAN DIEGO CAMELLIA SOCIETY Third Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 pm Prs: Mr. Les Baskerville—583-4539

4871 Lucille Place, S.D. 92115 SAN DIEGO CHAPTER, CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, Fourth Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m. Prs: Mr. Robert Nicholson—443-2998

13003 Wildcat Canyon Road, Lakeside, 92040 SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY

Fourth Tues., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m. Prs: Mr. Gerald Lohmann—279-5135 6616 Rockglen Ave., S. D. 92111 SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

First Tues, Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.
Prs: Mr. Charles Fouquette—448-4165
9349 Burning Tree Way, Santee, 92071
SAN DIEGO COUNTY WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Prs: Mr. Robert Susco—447-3369

2726 Willow Glen Drive, El Cajon, 92020 SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY Second Wed., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m.

Prs: Mr. Eugene Lund—469-1677 5666 Aztec Drive, La Mesa, 92041 SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANT CLUB

SAN DIEGO FUCHSIA & SHADE PLANT CLUE Second Mon., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m. Prs: Mr. George S. Szobar—276-1559 4310 Gessna, S.D. 92117

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY Second Tues., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m. Prs: Mrs. Carol Roller—444-7745 1134 Nidrah Street, El Cajon, 92020

SAN DIEGO GESNERIAD SOCIETY, First Thurs, Casa del Prado, Room 104 Prs: Ben Hardy—448-0659 9443 E. Heaney Cir., Santee 92071

SAN DIEGO-IMPERIAL COUNTIES IRIS SOCIETY Third Sun., Casa del Prado, 1:30 p.m.

Prs: Mrs. Hazel Carson—264-8688 6177 Tooley St. San Diego, 92114 SAN DIEGO ROSE SOCIETY

Third Mon., Casa del Prado, 7:30 p.m. Prs: Mr. Robert Linck—274-5929 1935 Bahia Way. La Jolla. 92037

1935 Bahia Way, La Jolla, 92037 SAN DIEGUITO BRANCH, AMERICAN FUCHSIA SOCIETY Prs: Mrs. Noreen Bryce-724-8676

752 Monterey Lane, Vista, CA 92083 SAN DIEGUITO GESNERIAD CLUB Prs: Mrs. Roman Shore—433-3532

4471 Estada Drive, Oceanside 92054 SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

Four meetings per year, All State Savings & Loan-San Marcos
Prs: Sanford Roberts-443-7711
15011 Oak Creek Road El Caion, 92021

15011 Oak Creek Road, El Cajon, 92021 SOUTHWESTERN GROUP, JUDGES' COUNCIL, CALI-FORNIA GARDEN CLUBS, INC. First Wed., Casa del Prado, 10:30 a.m.

Prs: Mrs. Wm. F. Green-488-3665 1340 Loring Street, San Diego 92109 UNIVERSITY CITY GARDEN CLUB

Rep: Barbara McCroskey—452-9734 6747 Welmer Street, San Diego, 92122 VILLAGE GARDEN CLUB OF LA JOLLA

Fourth Thurs, 1:00 p.m. La Jolla United Methodist Church, 6063 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla Prs: Mrs. George Bauhan—459-9024 5630 Bellevue Ave., La Jolla, 92037

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THE ROSE IN LEGEND

Many of the symbols and sentiments assigned to the rose come from a Greek mythological legend.

It was said that while walking through the woods one cloudy day Chloris, the diety of flowers, found the body of a beautiful nymph. Overcome by grief for the death of such a lovely creature, she decided to give her new life by transforming her into an exquisite flower, one that would surpass all others in charm and beauty. She called upon many of the other dieties to help her in her task,

Aphrodite gave beauty, while the Three Graces agreed to bestow brilliance, joy, and charm. Then Chloris asked her husband Zephyrus, the West Wind, to blow away the clouds so that Apollo, the Sun, could send his blessings of warmth and light. Dionysius, the diety of Wine, offered nectar and fragrance. When the flower was finished the gods were delighted with its charming beauty and delightful fragrance. Chloris collected a diadem of dewdrops and crowned the new flower, the rose, as the queen of all flowers.

Approaches was so pleased she presented the rose as a gift to her son, Eros. The white rose soon became the symbol of charm and innocence, and the red rose of love and desire through this association with the god of Love.

-Skipper Cope